HOW PONTOONS ARE BUILT.

Work of the Engineer Corps of the Army at Willets Point.

Lessons Taught by the Civil War—School of the Pontoon—Flotilla Drill—Three Different Kinds of Temporary Bridge Construction Taught.

If it were not for the pontoon and trestle bridge system of the army the progress of our troops, while on the march in time of war, when they should encounter rivers, creeks or ravines, would be totally obstructed. The methods used in constructing these bridges are interesting, as they are the result of years of experimenting and careful study by both our army officers and those of the armies of foreign nations, and have much of a historic nature connected with them. This, and in fact all the work in furnishing plans, ways and means for the army is the particular duty of the Battalion of Engineers stationed at this post.

The engineer soldiers here are now, and have been for over a month, engaged in their regular pontoon-bridge drill. It comprises the construction, for practice, of pontoon, spar and trestle bridges, rope ferries, etc. When the drill for the season is first begun, what is known as the "school of the pontonier" is opened. The object of the school is the individual instruction of recruits in the use of the oars, paddles and boat-hooks. It is supervised by the commissioned officers of the company, who pass in skiffs from pontoon to pontoon, and see that every part of the drill is properly taught by the instructor, who is usually a non-commissioned officer. The men are then taught and drilled to obey the different commands in unison, and when they are proficient in this flotilla drill is taken up.

A flotilla generally consists of one pontoon division of eight boats. It is commanded by a commissioned officer, usually a Captain. Lieutenants in the pontoons act as file closers to promptly rectify errors and to prevent confusion. In this drill the men are taught to form and row the pontoons as they would march in single file or column. In maneuvering the flotilla three formations are recognized—in line, in echelon and in column. The evolutions of the flotilla are similar to those of a body of soldiers on the march. They embrace halt, dress, advance, retreat, to oblique, to wheel, to extend intervals, to close intervals, to form column to front, to form column to rear, to form column to either side, etc. This drill is given so that the pontoons may be more easily manipulated in the preliminary formation for the construction of the various kinds of bridges which is afterward taken up.

The passage of rivers by troops in time of war or other emergency, at points where no permanent bridges exist, is usually effected by these military bridges or by forming the boats into rafts, held in position by ropes. There are times, however, when the enemy by occupying with a thin line of skirmishers the opposite shore at the desired point of crossing can effectually prevent the construction of either of these means of passage until reserves have had time to come up. In such cases it is necessary to effect a passage by force by suddenly ferrying a body of picked men, infantry or cavalry, across the stream to drive away the skirmish line, while the pontoniers are making the bridge for the main body; for it must be assumed as definitely settled by experience in the late war that it is impossible to construct a regular bridge under the fire of sharpshooters, even when favored by fog or darkness. The gathering of pontoons at any point will cause the force to be carefully watched. It is therefore advantageous in forcing a passage to transport the boats by hand a sufficient distance to prevent the sound of wagons from being heard.

This was done at Fredericksburg during the late war, where twenty pontoons were transported nearly a mile in three hours and launched without discovery. Thirty infantry soldiers were required for each boat. They turned it upside down and carried it on poles about ten feet long, which were placed under and across the gunwales. At some preparatory experiments it was found that twenty pontoniers could carry a pontoon in this manner two or three hundred yards without resting, the weight supported by each man averaging about eighty pounds. In smooth grass land or through mud, after unloading the boats from the wagons which form the pontoon train, the pontoons may be easily moved by drag ropes, using either men or horses. For long distances a temporary sled made of two stout planks, with suitable cross pieces, is generally employed. A pontoon may be dragged many miles in this way. Canvas boats may readily be carried on the shoulders long distances by ten men, but the difficulty of rowing renders them far less useful for forcing the passage of a river than the wooden boats.

When the current is gentle, and six oars are used, squads of forty infantrymen, fully equipped with knapsacks, blankets, etc., may be safely transported in a single pontoon boat. With four oars, it is said that fifty men were actually ferried over the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg, in a strong current, and without accident. The canvass pontoon, with six paddles, will carry a squad of twenty men fully equipped.

For the ferriage of cavalry, the pontoons are prepared as if for the ferriage of infantry, except that four oarsman only are required. Six horses may be taken at a trip. The cavalrymen, with the officer in charge, embark. Their equipments are placed in the pontoon and the men take post, three on each side, leading their horses by the bridles. The boat is pushed off by men in the water at the stern, and is conducted across the current, the horses swimming by the sides.

Pontoons are well adapted for landing the supplies of the army from shipping when time is lacking to make the requisite wharves. The boats are lined with chess, or flooring, and are loaded by tails. Six tons may thus be carried at a trip in smooth water. Field guns, and, if necessary, siege guns may be landed in the same way.

There are four methods of constructing a pontoon bridge—by successive pontoons, by conversion, by rafts, and by parts. The bridge built by successive pontoons possesses the advantage over the others of being applicable to all streams, whatever may be their velocity, and of requiring the minimum quantity of material, the fewest pontoniers, and the shortest time for building. The bridge is begun at both ends, if possible, and is pushed on rapidly toward the middle of the stream. The two portions thus formed are connected by parts which are constructed in the meanwhile along the river bank. This is the style of bridge which the 250 engineer soldiers sent from this post to the aid of the Johnstown flood sufferers built over the Connemaugh River at that place, so that traffic could be resumed.

The method of building by rafts is employed when the passage of a river is to be forced, and when the rafts can be constructed unobserved by the enemy, in which case the pontoniers are exposed to fire but a short time; that is, while the rafts are floating into position and being connected. The bridge constructed by parts is used under similar conditions.

The construction of the bridge by conversion is a delicate operation. To insure success the current must be moderate, the holding ground good, and the pontoniers skillful, intelligent and cool. The awkwardness of a single man, the dragging of an anchor, or the parting of a cable, may cause the failure of the entire operation. This bridge is used where the enemy occupies a stand near the opposite shore or some place from which they might discover the pontoniers if the bridge was extended out into the stream, as in building by successive pontoons, and the work must be done under cover. After the width of the stream is ascertained, the bridge is built parallel to the shore. When completed one end is wheeled around when the tide is favorable until it connects with the opposite bank. Once the bridge is complete, the march is taken up, and the infantry, cavalry, and artillery, with its heavy field guns and loaded wagon trains, pass over without difficulty.

Previous to the Mexican war no attempt was made to organize a bridge equipage in the United States service. During that war two complete trains of India rubber pontoons were constructed and sent to the field. At its close these trains were sent to West Point, where they were used for the instruction of cadets and engineer troops. It soon became evident that India rubber was not at all adapted to the construction of pontoons, as its elasticity gave the bridge a rocking motion, which at times was so violent as to render it unsafe for the passage of animals. The most serious objection, however, was that a puncture, either above or below the water line, was equally fatal. Hence a single sharpshooter from a rifle pit on the enemy's side of the stream could destroy these pontoons as fast as they were launched.

In 1858 it was decided that the rubber pontoon was entirely unserviceable, and experiments with the pontoons of foreign nations were made. Among the various kinds tried were some made of corrugated iron, tin, etc., but the one finally adopted, and which is now in use, is of wood, and patterned after the French pontoon. The wooden pontoon is not only much less liable to injury from contact with rocks than the tin or iron boats, but when such accidents occur the pontoons can be readily repaired.

Previous to the Battle of Gettysburg a pontoon bridge over the Potomac at Harper's Ferry was destroyed, the pontoons being scuttled and set adrift above the rapids. About three weeks after, the water having fallen, the boats were recovered, repaired with pieces of hard bread boxes obtained from the Commissary, and used in constructing a bridge at Berlin, over which the entire army passed into Virginia.

In the month of February, 1862, a pontoon bridge, composed of about sixty boats of the reserve train, was thrown across the Potomac at Harper's Ferry. The river was then a perfect torrent, the water being fifteen feet above the summer level, and filled with drift wood and floating ice. The greatest difficulty was experienced in pulling the pontoons into position, and it was necessary to make use of ship anchors and chain cables to hold them in place. Notwithstanding these unfavorable circumstances the bridge was completed in about eight hours, and the corps commanded by General Banks, with all its trains and artillery, passed over it without accident or delay.

Several of these pontoon trains accompanied the army in the Peninsular campaign. The pontoons were used in discharging quartermaster and commissary stores at Ship Point, in disembarking General Franklin's command at West Point, and in constructing bridges over Hampton Green, the streams in front of Yorktown, and the Upper Chickahominy. Finally, a bridge was built over the Lower Chickahominy about 2,000 feet long, over which nearly the whole army of the Potomac, with its immense trains, artillery and cavalry, passed with promptness and safety.

During the Fredericksburg campaign it became necessary to force the passage of the Rappahannock. The enemy, having intrenched themselves on the bank, prevented for some time the construction of the bridge until, at length, troops were embarked in the pontoons and ferried across, where they stormed the rifle pits and held them until the bridge was completed.

In 1863 the pontoon trains accompanied the army in all its marches backward and forward through Virginia, frequently bridging the Potomac, Rapidan and Rappahannock. In the last-named stream, the bridges remained in position all winter, and, notwithstanding the frequent floods and the quantity of ice formed, but few interruptions occurred on these thoroughfares.—Willet's Point correspondent of the New York Times.

Women Who Suffer pain each month can find relief and emancipation from their troubles. Congestion and inflammation of the internal organs are generally induced by exposure to wet or cold, excitement of the emotions, or a morbid condition of the blood. For the radical cure of these derangements Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a safe and certain remedy, permanently correcting all abnormal conditions, so that these trying ordeals are passed with ease and comfort. Ulcerations and displacements of the uterus are cured by the "Favorite Prescription," and the cure is *lasting*.

Hysteria, Spasms, Nervousness, Indigestion, or Dyspepsia, often depend upon irregularities of function and displacements of the womanly organs. The "Favorite Prescription" cures by regulating and correcting these functions and organic changes.

For all irregularities, suppressions and obstructions, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a *specific*, and has a record of *over a quarter of a century of cures.*

MRS. WILSON.

Mrs. MALVINA WILSON, of *Boothsville, Marion Co., W. Va.*, writes: "For twelve long years I suffered greatly with extreme nervousness, stomach and uterine disease. I had doctored with four physicians with little or no good, and one of them was as good a physician as could be had here; he gave me up to die. None of my friends thought I could get well. We had tried almost everything, and at last I thought I would try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. I had been bed-fast most of the time for almost two years. After taking several bottles of the 'Favorite Prescription' and following the directions strictly, I now enjoy better health than ever before in my life. I only weighed a little over one hundred pounds and now I weigh 167 pounds."

$10,000 Worth
—OF—
NEW AND SECOND-HAND FURNITURE,
CARPETS, STOVES, ETC.,
CHEAPER THAN EVER.
Bedroom Suits from $5 up at the old stand,
323 K STREET,
IXL Auction and Commission House,
F. MILLER, Proprietor.

NEW FURNITURE.
Special Bargains.
Hall Racks,
Sideboards,
Fine Extension Tables,
Center Tables,
And Furniture of all descriptions at
W. D. COMSTOCK'S,
Fifth and K Streets.

HERMAN SCHWARZ,
NURSERYMAN AND GARDEN ARCHITECT, Twenty-fifth and O streets.
All kinds of garden work promptly and properly executed. Charges reasonable.

MANLY VIGOR

ONCE MORE in harmony with the world, 2000 completely cured men are singing happy praises for the greatest, grandest and most successful cure for sexual weakness and lost vigor known to medical science. An account of this *wonderful discovery*, in book form, with references and proofs, will be sent to suffering men (sealed) *free*. Full manly vigor permanently restored. Failure impossible.
ERIE MEDICAL CO., BUFFALO, N.Y.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

Expressions From Newspapers of Interior California.

Stockton Independent: Some California lover of posterity should try the experiment of planting a grove of ash, maple, or good Eastern oak trees. The ash and the soft maple are rapid growers, and a man in middle age might live to reap the benefits of them. They both make good manufacturing timber and are the better for cultivation. The oak is of slower growth and only a young planter would reap the benefit. Some kinds of poplar are also useful in manufacturing and all varieties grow rapidly. A grove of the white-wood variety might yield a middle-aged planter a small fortune in his old age.

SHALL CIVILIZATION GO BACKWARD?

Fresno Republican: American civilization is to-day confronted with the gravest problem that has ever menaced its onward progress. Oriental competition stands in its pathway armed with a weapon against which there is but one defense. The walls of protection must be raised against the impending deluge of Oriental manufactures or American industry in many lines must succumb to practical extinction and American labor to such degradation as the most pessimistic cannot readily conceive of.

* * *

The Japanese, with their millions of laborers to whom existence is the only problem, have finally become awake to the possibilities which the use of this labor and modern machinery present to them in an industrial conquest of those countries whose labor has thrown off the chains of serfdom and claims its share of the enlightenment and comfort that is enjoyed by other classes, and aided by foreign cupidity, are fast securing the means by which they can place manufactured goods in the markets of all countries where labor is something more than a chattel, at less than half the price at which they are now produced.

It is useless to deny this fact, for the product of this labor, degraded to mere animal existence by ages of absolute subjection, is now coming in quantities to this Western shore, and it is imbecile to attempt to belittle the far-reaching and disastrous effects of such competition. Fine spun theories of free exchange of commodities and the unshackling of the world's commerce fall in contemptible confusion before such a fact as that which we are forced to contemplate in the equipment with the finest modern machinery which civilization has produced of the millions of Orientals, who are satisfied with wages of $8 per month or less. With the cost of living reduced to a minimum in this country, where would the American workingman be, with his family to clothe in decency and educate as befits the citizens of a free republic, when it came to competition with such human chattels?

NO TURNING BACKWARD.

Fresno Expositor: If civilization could be ruined by the policy of buying what people live on cheaper than by making it, civilization would have been ruined a long time ago. It would have been set back when the cotton gin was invented; when the use of steam as a motive power was discovered; when railroads threw stage coaches and freight teams out of use; when the sewing machine made it possible for people to buy their clothing cheaper than they could make it themselves or hire others to make it for them; when ingenious inventions that now turn out shoes supplanted the old, laborious methods of shoe-making, and when a thousand other inventions began to do the work of human hands.

It is not the aim of civilization or of human ambition to make work, but rather to obtain what man needs with as little work and as cheaply as possible, and when any man or any nation can buy what he or it wants cheaper than he or it can make it, the natural law of progress and prosperity is going to induce the man or the nation to buy it, rather than spend twice as much unprofitably making it, just to keep at work.

These natural laws of progress toward a higher civilization, in which the luxuries of one generation become the necessities of the next and all the people are benefited, are becoming better understood, and except for the political purposes of selfish, rapacious and soulless combinations of capital there would be no attempt to drive people who do not yet comprehend the subtle forces of civilization that are steadily at work, into hysterics of fear that they are going to be ruined because they may, in the coming time, buy what they must have for half what they formerly had to pay.

Most of the necessaries of life are today obtained for much less than they were twenty years ago, and civilization hasn't gone backward on that account. It isn't going backward at all, but forward, and that's one thing that everybody should be thankful for on this glorious Thanksgiving Day.

THE ENLARGEMENT OF WOMAN'S SPHERE.

Los Angeles Herald: What a different world the woman of to-day finds from that in which her grandmother, or even her mother, lived! Much may yet be lacking, but it is well to stop and think, sometimes, of the advantages already gained by women, of the many avenues which are now open for her industry, her talent or her ambition.

It is quite within the recollection of the middle-aged when the woman who must earn her livelihood was confined to a choice between teaching and the more purely domestic occupations of sewing, nursing or housekeeping. Noble occupations, these, requiring the best qualities of mind and heart, and more suited, perhaps, to the nature of woman than any other pursuit in which she engages or attempts to engage.

But the law of supply and demand must be considered in relation to woman's work, as well as that of men, and the same results would follow if women were restricted to these few lines of industry that we see when any trade or profession is overcrowded among men—wages would be reduced to the lowest limit.

AN IMPORTANT CELEBRATION.

Los Angeles Times: Yesterday, November 27th, there was celebrated in England the sixth centennial of the most important human event of that kingdom, an event which concerns our own country and the remainder of the civilized world outside of Great Britain. Yesterday was completed full six centuries since England possessed a regular Parliament, essentially, though with modifications, as it is to-day. In other words, for 600 years England has had a constitutional form of government, where the will of the people could be heard through their representatives, and this has been maintained (no matter who was the nominal head of the realm) through persecution, internal strife and foreign war. The people of the United States have inherited whatever was best in these parliamentary rights, while there is not a constitutional government existing in the world, unless it is that of Switzerland, which is not modeled more or less after that of England.

WEATHER NOTES

A Dense Fog and Slightly Falling Barometer Last Night.

The Weather Bureau reports show the highest and lowest temperatures yesterday to have been 59 degrees and 44 degrees, with very light easterly winds and cloudy weather prevailing. There was a dense fog during the early morning, lasting until 9 o'clock before lifting entirely.

The barometrical readings at 5 a. m. and 5 p. m. were 30.32 and 30.38 inches, respectively.

The highest and lowest temperatures one year ago yesterday were 50 degrees and 35 degrees, and one year ago to-day, 57 degrees 44 degrees.

River, 9 feet 2 inches.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report
Royal Baking Powder
ABSOLUTELY PURE

MRS. PARNELL.

Lying in a New York Hospital a Mental and Physical Wreck.

NEW YORK, Dec. 2.—A morning paper says: Mrs. Delia Stewart Parnell is now lying in Trinity Hospital, 50 Varick street, a mental and physical wreck. She thinks she is on her way to Ireland to see her famous children for the last time, and to return to her native land, where she may depart in peace.

The most casual observer, looking at Mrs. Parnell, now an octogenarian, might well doubt if she is capable of crossing the Atlantic at this, or, indeed, at any season of the year. Her days seem to be numbered, and the probabilities are that she will never more see the land for which she and her sons and daughters have made such sacrifices. It is possible, such is the vitality of which she is posessed, that were it not for the cowardly assault upon her in Bordentown last spring, Mrs. Parnell would live many years, but judging from present appearances, it would be a mistake for her to leave her present asylum, even where she physically capable.

A month or so ago Mrs. Parnell left Ironsides, where she had lived so long, and, coming to this city, resided temporarily with her friend, Mrs. William Knowd. She was even then quite feeble. Her intention was to sail for Ireland on December 1st, and visiting Avondale, the home of the Parnells, prevail upon her married daughter, Mrs. Dickinson, to accompany her to Nice, from the climate of which she hoped good results. This plan was frustrated by her failing health, and in order that she should have all the proper care for her condition, she was invited by her cousin, Sister Eleanor, Superior of Trinity Episcopal Hospital, to take a room in that institution

CONVENTION TALK.

Quay and Platt Working Hard for Pittsburg.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—A morning paper says: If Matthew Stanley Quay and Thomas Collier Platt have anything to say about it, the Republican National Committee at its meeting in Washington next week will vote to send the Presidential convention to Pittsburg.

Quay has been laboring with all his might for several months to have the next Republican President nominated at the birthplace of the party, and within a few days the New York leader is reported to have been won over also. Unless the NewYork man changes his mind William A. Sutherland, the National Committeeman from this State, will support Pittsburg, and a number of votes from the New England States will follow suit.

Chairman Manley of the National Executive Committee, General James S. Clarkson, National Committeeman, and National Committeeman Sam Fessenden of Connecticut are still working hard to send the convention to San Francisco, and claim that twenty of the fifty-one votes in the committee are absolutely pledged to the Golden Gate city.

Chicago appears to be doing little or nothing toward capturing the convention, and with the Republican leaders from this State against locating it in this city, the chances for bringing the convention to New York appear very dubious. Still, the New Yorkers are going to Washington to make a fight, and they may get a complimentary vote, at least.

STEEL RAILS.

An Important Shipment to be Made From Liverpool to This Coast.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—An important shipment of steel rails is to be made soon from Liverpool to the Pacific Coast. Cammell & Co. of Sheffield will be the exporters. The amount is 10,000 tons, costing about $300,000. The sale was effected through Griswold & Gillett of No. 66 Broadway, agents of Cammell & Co. They decline to give the name of the purchaser.

The transaction is extremely significant, being the first large importation of steel rails in some time. Steel rails here are quoted at something less than the price in England, plus the duty, so that protection is given by the cost of carriage. But with regard to California, the case is different. Eastern manufacturers would have to ship their goods at considerable cost, while rates from Liverpool to San Francisco are little more than nominal. Most of the traffic between these ports is eastbound, consisting of fruits, wheat, etc. It would be profitable, rather than go back in ballast, to accept a shipment of steel rails at a low rate. Consequently the English manufacturers were able to underbid their American rivals.

MUSIN TO-NIGHT.

A Brilliant Concert Promised for the Sacramento Lecture Association.

To-night Ovid Musin and his supporting artists appear for the Lecture Association at the Congregational Church. Nothing can be said of Musin that is not already known to Sacramentans. Of Mrs. Musin, the soprano, the St. Louis Republic says: "Mrs. Musin is still the leading soprano of America. Her voice is wonderful in range and clarity, and she enunciates as clearly as a speaker and executes as delicately as a bird."

Of the pianist, the New Orleans Times-Democrat has this to say: "Eduard Scharf, a pianist of extraordinary accomplishment, played with perfect technique and in beautful style. His classic touch and artistic expression took the audience by storm. He was twice recalled."

Season tickets are to be had at the usual places and at the door.

WILL BE ASSISTANT.

Arthur Prentice Assigned to the Railroad Hospital.

In addition to Mrs. Botsford, mentioned yesterday as the surviving child of the late N. D. Goodell, he left two grand children—Arthur and Floy Prentice of San Francisco.

Arthur has just graduated in medicine there and has been assigned by Dr. Gardner, Chief of the Medical Staff of the Southern Pacific Company, to act at the Railroad Hospital here as assistant to Dr. Huntington. He will commence the duties of his new position on Friday.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Dr. M. Gardner is up from San Francisco.

George H. Mendell, Jr., of San Francisco is staying at the Golden Eagle.

E. C. Allis came up from the Bay last night and is stopping at the Golden Eagle.

Frank Miller, a well-known citizen of Placerville, has been visiting relatives here.

Adjutant-General Barrett and Colonel Peeler have gone to San Francisco to attend a meeting of the Governor's staff.

Mrs. L. B. Nichols has returned from a six weeks' trip to Arizona, visiting her aunt and looking after her interests near Bisbee.

Erastus Green, ex-Trustee and ex-Superintendent of Streets, who has been very ill for months and whose life was despaired of at one time, is now at the Russ House in San Francisco. His health is almost entirely restored.

AMUSEMENTS.

At the Clunie Opera-house last evening the Eldridge-Hallett Stock Company produced the sensational four-act comedy drama, more properly the melodrama, "Solomon Isaacs," known when played here before as "Queen's Evidence." It is well mounted and well played. Mr. Hallett as Isaacs surprised his best friends. Stepping from the level of the heavy villain to that of the low comedian is a long stride, but to fill the latter role as well as he plays the former is an achievement we had not credited him with. It is simply justice to say that his Isaacs is one of the best things he has done here. He robs the part of some of its coarseness and invests it with much of kindly sentiment without permitting the comedy vein to suffer. Mr. Montserrat was more effective, more artistic, as Medland than in any role he has assumed this season. He interpreted the part with intelligent appreciation of the feeling of a man situated as is the hero of the play, falsely accused of crime, convicted and avoiding justice, and yet impelled by conscious innocence to face the dangers of seizure and transportation, in order to assure himself of the means that had been employed to wreck his life, and rob him of his wife and child. Misses Miffin, Bridges and Gassman were very successful in the roles assumed, the two first named having the more difficult parts. Mr. Brewer was the polished rascal of the melodrama—there always is a villain in this class of plays, as also a persecuted woman—and presented the part with such success as to win from the more impressionable of the audience manifestations of cordial hatred for Mathew Thornton. The play will be given every night this week and promises to draw full houses.

* * *

There was a large audience at the Sixth-street M. E. Church last night, the occasion being the first appearance of the Ladies' Choral Society. The society appeared some thirty strong, with Mrs. Frances Moeller as director and Miss Dunster as accompanist on piano and organ. In one number where both instruments were used she was assisted by Mrs. C. A. Neale. The leading voices were those of Mrs. Moeller, Miss Emma Felter, Mrs. Coppersmith, Miss Reeves, Miss Foster and Mrs. Genshlea. Mrs. Moeller proved entire capacity as a director, and conducted the society with precision, ease and with excellent judgment. As a rule, women do not make good musical directors, lacking evidently the vigor and precision in commanding a chorus group, but Mrs. Moeller proved herself to be an exception. Miss Felter in her solo, "Sancta Maria," had a heavy task, but accomplished with credit. In response to the deserved encore she gave a selection in better voice and with more feeling than we have had occasion to credit her with in a long time. The chorus gem of the evening was "Ave Maria," with the solo part by Mrs. Coppersmith, whose cultivated, sweet and sympathetic voice was heard to the very best advantage. The encore that followed and resulted in repetition of the number was richly deserved. Mrs. Moeller's two solos were well rendered and demonstrated her musical ability and the sympathetic character of her fine mezzo-soprano—the second of her numbers was by far the most effective, "When Love Doth Build His Nest." It would be pleasant to speak of the trio by Misses Reeves and Foster and Mrs. Genshlea as good. But the truth is, that it was ill-chosen—a selection from "Elijah." While it was well enough sung and by capable voices, it failed to awaken sympathy or appeal to the audience in any manner, and came very near being received with absolute coldness. The chorus sang smoothly, with praiseworthy regard for time, and discriminating dynamic effects. The society should feel encouraged. All such organizations are praiseworthy. They stimulate love for good music, quicken the taste for music study. We ought to have a choral society of 200 good voices in Sacramento. The voices are here; why there cannot be maintained successful organization is not understandable. We have seen a dozen efforts made to bring about the desired result, but success has been shortlived in every instance. We know of towns not half the size of this with choral societies of long existence, with from 100 to 200 trained voices, and there ought to be no reason why we cannot do as well. We trust that the Ladies' Choral Society will live and enlarge its roster greatly.

WANTS $10,000.

Peter McGraw's Suit Against the Friend & Terry Company.

Judge Johnson's court is engaged in the trial of the suit of Peter McGraw against the Friend & Terry Lumber Company for $10,000 damages.

While the company was filling a sidewalk at Twelfth and J streets McGraw received a fall and injured his shoulder. He claims the defendants' negligence caused the accident.

BRIEF NOTES

The execution of Chin Hane, sentenced to death from this county for the murder of Fong Lee, will take place at Folsom Prison on Friday, December 13th.

Charles Drew pleaded guilty yesterday morning in the Police Court to a charge of stealing a satchel and a bundle of oranges from a car on train No. 2 Saturday and was sent to the County Jail for four months.

Seasons in South America.

A Philadelphian recently returned from an extended tour of South America tells an interesting story of the queer climatic conditions prevailing in certain parts of the lower half of this continent. "Of course, it is pretty well known," says he, "that while the people north of the equator are suffering the rigors of winter those people living south of that imaginary line are in the midst of summer, and vice versa. This rule, however, so far as South America is concerned, applies only to the coast, for in the mountains of the interior a peculiar condition of affairs exists. Up in the Andes the natives are in the midst of winter when midsummer prevails on the coast and when winter reaches the coast it is summer in the mountains. Of course, neither the coast nor mountain winter is very severe, but the distinction between the two seasons is decidedly marked. It is a very remarkable climatic condition."—Philadelphia Record.

An extraordinarily large number of dwarfs live in the district of Riwas, in the Eastern Pyrenees. Tradition has it that they are the descendants of a race which inhabited those mountain regions in prehistoric times.

Apollinaris
"THE QUEEN OF TABLE WATERS."
Supplied under Royal Warrants to Her Majesty the Queen of England, and to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.
JOHN CAFFREY;
47 First street, San Francisco.
Representing
Charles Graef & Co., N. Y., for Mineral Waters.

THE NONPAREIL.

"The Nonpareil"

Toy Department now open in our Basement. DOLLS. Toy Department now open in our Basement.

They have been gathered from everywhere. Hundreds of Dolls—the sisters, brothers and pretty cousins of all dolldom, with papa and mamma dolls as well. Some are dressed in the daintiest colors, with pretty bonnets to match, while others you may have the pleasure of dressing yourselves. See our large stock of Bisque Jointed Dolls. The Christmas Tree Ornaments are ready, too. First choice and being ahead of the denser throng are worth something.

RAIN GARMENTS.
To keep comfortable during the stormy days likely to come before Christmas we suggest one of our handsome Mackintoshes. Can be had with single or double cape in fancy patterns, navy blue or black.
Prices, $2 50, $5, $7 50 Each.

PLAIN INDIA SILK,
25c a Yard.
Your choice of thirty different shades in Plain India Silk, 23 inches wide. Can be used for evening dresses or waists, as well as for fancy work.

PLAIN AND STAMPED LINENS.
Never before have we shown such attractive Linen Goods as this season. Round and oblong shapes, as well as the honiton lace and braid work are in much demand. You are cordially invited to spend an hour or two with us in this department.

Wasserman, Davis & Co.
AGENTS FOR BUTTERICK PATTERNS,
Corner Fifth and J Streets, Sacramento.

ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE.

George Maxwell of San Jose Wanted to Die, But Was Prevented.

George Maxwell, a young man about 25 years of age and a recent arrival from San Jose, attempted to commit suicide at the State House Hotel last night by the morphine route.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock groans were heard coming from the room occupied by Maxwell. The bellboy knocked on the door but no answer came. With the assistance of the night clerk he clambered through the transom into Maxwell's room. He had considerable difficulty in rousing the would-be suicide, and when he did so Maxwell was bundled off to the Receiving Hospital, where he was attended by Assistant City Physician Ogden.

Maxwell would not say definitely why he attempted to take his life, other than that he considered himself of no further use to himself or anybody else on this earthly sphere, and for that reason did not care to live any longer. Inadvertently he remarked that his girl had "gone back" on him.

Among his effects were found $66 05 in cash, three bottles of morphine, two flasks of whisky and a few trinkets. He said he swallowed forty grains of the drug. He told the hotel clerk that he was sorry he was discovered, and his only desire was to be allowed to die. No doubt he would have succeeded had not he been discovered by the bell boy.

JAPANESE CARPENTRY.

Peculiar Ways They Have of Working and the Tools Used.

Lumber is worth about twice as much in Japan as it is with us. Common lumber, which we sell for $10 and $12 a thousand feet, will bring 40 yen—that is, $20 gold, here. This is due chiefly to the scarcity of timber and the great laber required to work it up by their primitive processes. They heve been cutting timber off their mountains here for 2,500 years, and although the forests have been reproduced again and again during that time it is difficult and expensive to get logs down from the mountain sides in the absence of the necessary facilities. They usually go into the woods and cut one log at a time, which they haul out by hand or by oxen for many miles. Where streams are convenient they use them as we do, but they have no sawmills in the mountains, although there is an abundance of water power everywhere. I understand they have tried them, but they have not been successful.

They cut all their lumber by hand with a wide and thin saw during a time of year when they have nothing else to do, and each man who is engaged in business that requires lumber usually buys his own logs and cuts them up himself at odd times. Women and men both work. One man or woman will work on the top of the log while another works underneath, but usually not with the same saw. I have seen four or five men working on the same log, each sawing off his own board. They raise the log at an incline of 45 degrees, with one end on the ground and a rest about the middle, and when they work down to the rest they tie it up and begin at the other end again.

All the lumber is dressed by hand. I have found but one planing-mill in the country. This is in Yokohama. It employs about 150 hands, and, curiously enough, its entire product is made into boxes and shipped to India. It does no business in the local market. The machinery is all from Boston. The manager tells me that the company is thinking of enlarging the plant by adding a sash factory and machinery for making blinds and doors, also for the India market. I do not know why they do not sell their goods in the local market, but I presume there is a good reason for it; perhaps they get better prices in India.

The Japanese make all the woodenwork about a house by hand, and most of their houses are all wood. They are very skillful in all kinds of cabinet and joiner work, and are more rapid than our people. Their tools are better adapted for doing close work than ours, and are kept very sharp. Beside, they give a great deal more labor and patience to an article than our carpenters and cabinet-makers. You never see scratches from nicked tools in their planed work. They use very few nails, but mortise almost everything. It is usually so well done that it is difficult to detect the joints by the grain, and it lasts forever. Some of their ships are made without a bit of iron in their composition. Everything is mortised.

What pay do they get? Skilled machinists, carpenters, joiners, cabinetmakers and the highest class of that sort of mechanics get from 40 to 42 sen a day for twelve hours' work. That is equivalent to 20 and 21 cents of our money; while second-rate workmen get from 15 to 20 sen a day, and women, who work right along with the men in the shops, receive from 10 to 15 sen. They do not accomplish as much in twelve hours as our skilled mechanics will in eight hours, but they do it better.

The Japanese manufacturer and contractor usually prefer hand labor to machine work—first, because it is better finished, and second, because it gives employment to more people. I find this to be true in the Government shops, with rich men who are putting up large buildings, and with large employers generally. There is no prejudice against machinery, and I do not think there would be any difficulty of introducing American machinery of every kind into Japan if our manufacturers will go at it in an intelligent manner.

The Japanese are very skillful in handling machinery when they once learn how. They learn best by imitation. It is difficult to make them understand how to use a machine by explanation, but if they can sit by and see some one else do it they will learn very rapidly. And in copying machinery they reproduce the original with great exactness and fidelity, even to any blemishes or ornaments that may appear. I have seen some remarkable examples of their imitation. Usually the finish is a little rougher than the original, but the working parts are identical, and they get the finish all right after a little experience.—Chicago Tribune.

EATING MEAT RAW.

A Curious Habit Said to be on the Increase in London.

The well-known favor with which Englishmen regard under-done beef brings to notice a curious habit which is said to be on the increase in London—that of eating meat raw, or nearly so. The habit started from a belief that it was conducive to health.

Of late years there has been a great run on the gravy or juice expressed from raw beef by the latter being squeezed into pulp; but, quite apart from this, many regular customers buy the finest cuts with a special view to eating the latter raw, each customer having an earnest belief that he benefits in health from the practice. In most cases it is more a matter of health than of actual taste. There are two remarkable points about raw meat-eating, one of them being that a great many butchers themselves constantly cut prime bits off and chew them.

The other point is that a great many people, who do not at home eat in a raw state the meat that they buy, judge the quality when buying by chewing a bit of raw meat, just as they might taste of butter or cheese. A celebrated London barrister eats quantities of the best steak finely minced with salad, and in a great many other cases the meat is cut into very slim shreds and made into sandwiches, with seasoning added. Restaurant-keepers say that the chief call is for meat very much under-done, but there are great numbers of faddy people who eat meat absolutely raw.—Exchange.

A Collection of Curious Shows.

One of the Queen of Italy's pet hobbies is collecting curious footgear. Her majesty has a unique assortment of shoes of every description, to which she is perpetually adding. The historical department contains some unique treasures. It is strange to reflect that a pair of clumsy shoes once belonged to Joan of Arc, and no one could look at another pair worn by Mary, Queen of Scots, on her way to the scaffold without recalling with a thrill of pity the wearer's unhappy fate. Near by are two dainty shoes once owned by the equally unfortunate Marie Antoinette.

Sweden can boast of a steamboat on wheels. This unique vehicle makes regular trips overland from one lake to another near by. To leave one lake it approaches the shore with a full head of steam on, rushes over the rails of the connecting road to the top of the eminence midway, shoots down to the other lake, and then its screw propellers merrily churn the waters again.

Awarded
Highest Honors—World's Fair,
Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair.
DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER
Most Perfect Made.
40 Years the Standard.